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The
Command  **Run**

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Photo by Air Force
Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

Command Run

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Marine Gen. Peter Pace.....*Commander in Chief*
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Editorial Staff

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts.....*Editor*
Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Gabe Puello.....*Assistant editor*
Army Spc. Lucy J. Pabon.....*CINC photographer*

Holocaust survivor reminds command not to forget the past

By Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts, USAF
Command Run Editor

MIAMI – German troops marched into his hometown of Zmigrod, Galicia, in the district of Kraków, Poland in September 1939 at the age of 10 – admittedly he even admired them. “Little did I know that these soldiers came to kill us all,” said Leo Rosner, the keynote speaker at the U.S.

Southern Command Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony April 12 here at the Thurman Building.

Rosner told the audience how much he enjoyed speaking to the members of the U.S. armed forces on a day of remembrance. Then he painstakingly told his story to the group.

Within days after the invasion, Rosner

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said the Germans burned down a 400-year old synagogue. Later, they forbid Jewish citizens to attend public school, restricted their movements, enforced a curfew and ordered them to wear the “Star of David” – every order punishable by death.

Then, at age 13, Rosner and all Jews in the town were ordered to bring all their valuables to a location just outside of the town. They were told they were being resettled in Czechoslovakia but instead they were surrounded by the Polish police, German Gestapo and Ukraine soldiers,



robbed, separated, and then 1,250 people, including his grandfather, were hauled off in trucks and shot nearby.

Several days later the Gestapo ordered all men age 15 to 35 to gather at the same location, where Rosner's father was sent away to a forced labor

“I watched people being killed, being shot and being harmed. It became a daily routine in my life.”

Leo Rosner
Holocaust survivor

camp.

A few weeks later, as the Germans gathered the remaining Jews from the town, Rosner, his mother and sister, went into hiding. However, with little food and water, they turned themselves in to the local prison after several weeks of hiding in the attic.

He spent the next several months in prison. He worked part of that time cleaning out Jewish homes. He managed to smuggle a few valuables back into the prison where he gave them to guards so they would let him see his mother and sister. Rosner said he remembers giving food to his mother, who was worn out and tired, and his sister. His mother told him the Germans needed slaves, that he was young and strong, to remember his teachings, and have faith to survive.

This was the last time he saw his mother and sister. He later learned they

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had been shot, but he didn't want to believe it. Then one day he found the clothes they had been wearing in a warehouse, and he knew it was true – they were gone.

Rosner said he felt numb by the loss of his mother and sister and didn't care if he lived or died. However, as time went by, he remembered her words. He later managed to meet up with his father in a labor camp, which helped give him strength.



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

Brig. Gen. Jerry McAbee (Left), U.S. Southern Command chief of staff, thanks Leo Rosner for speaking to the command.

Altogether, and concentration man commander who Rosner was held in camps. He witnessed emptied his pistol into a boy begging for numerous atrocities his life. "I watched forced labor camps including one Ger-

people being killed, being shot and being harmed," he said. "It became a daily routine in my life."

Near the end of the war, Rosner was forced into a railroad car, known as a cattle car, and traveled for days with no food or water. At one stop they opened the doors and hundreds of deceased Jews were thrown from the cars. Many others were weak and wandered away from the train where they were gunned down.

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started shooting with machine guns over at those prisoners. I stood there and they kept shooting and people were just falling over the tracks," Rosner recounted. "It's something you only see in a Hollywood movie. It's just unbelievable what I saw."

In his last concentration camp, Rosner remembers hearing close-range fire nearby the camp. Several other prisoners lifted him up by the fence where he saw American tanks approaching. The next morning, when he was naked wearing just one shoe he obtained during the night,

the Americans liberated him.

"It was a great day when the American Army came in," Rosner said. "We jumped the tanks because the Americans were chewing gum, and we thought they were eating. We didn't know what gum was. We were so hungry. They closed their tanks. They were afraid of us. To this day I say they thought they were in a jungle and we were the animals."

Rosner, now age 16, spent the next six weeks in the camp because he had nowhere else to go. The Jewish Brigade from Palestine eventually helped him make his way to Italy then to Israel. He later obtained a visa to the United



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

Brig. Gen. Ronald Burgess (Left), J-2 Intelligence Directorate director, greets Leo Rosner after the ceremony.

States and was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1952.

He received Army intelligence training at Fort Polk, La., and was later reassigned to Germany.

"Imagine me being in a place that only six years ago I was a slave," he said.

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“Here I am a conqueror walking along the great men of the American Army.”

Rosner said people asked him if he hated the Germans or how did he feel being there? “All I could say was I was proud to wear the American uniform and all I could think of was my mother. Had she lived to see me, the young boy she left, her prayers for me to survive, and now an American soldier in occupied Germany.”

Rosner, who lives in Miami, said he now lives a comfortable life, but he will live and die with the



Photos/Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts
Brig. Gen. Jerry McAbee addresses the audience about his experience as a young second lieutenant when a holocaust survivor hugged him, not for anything he had done, but because of a love for members of the U.S. Armed Forces who liberated many Jews in World War II.

memories seared into his mind. He told the audience that his reason for speak-

ing was to let everyone know... to remember that people become inhuman when they embrace hatred, bigotry and prejudice.

The ceremony ended with a standing ovation.

Brig. Gen. Jerry McAbee, U.S. Southern Command chief of staff, thanked Rosner and gave him a token of appreciation on behalf of the command and Gen. Peter Pace, the commander in chief.

Earlier during the ceremony the audience watched a video presentation titled “The Long Way Home,” which described the plight of the victims and survivors of Dachau Concentration Camp.

McAbee also addressed the command and re-

counted his encounter as a young lieutenant with a Holocaust survivor. The general said the survivor hugged him, not to show his affection for anything he had done, but for his love and affection for the American military.

“For all of us here who wear the uniform I think we need to take special pride in who we are and what we do and realize the special place and special affection the American people and global community hold in us,” McAbee said.

Rosner’s wife Annie, who ran away from Castro’s Cuba, and daughter Esther, named after Rosner’s mother, also attended the event.

Job well done

Gen. Henry H. Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, talks with U.S. Southern Command enlisted personnel April 20. He thanked them for their hard work and dedication and held a question and answer session. The nation's top military general also held a similar meeting with the command's officers. (Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Gabe Puello)



Miami chamber of commerce honors top NCO

MIAMI -- Members of the Executive Committee Board of governors and Trustees of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce held their annual "Service person of the Year Awards Presentation" April 4 during their luncheon at the Hilton Miami Airport hotel.

The Keynote speaker for this

event was Air Force Maj. Gen. James Soligan, U.S. Southern Command's J-5 Strategy, Policy and Plans director.

Sgt. Joel Overson, an administration NCO from SOUTHCOM's Command Section, was one of seven award recipients from South Florida commands who were recognized.



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Gabe Puello

(Left to right) Michael Rhodes, U.S. Southern Command Quality of Life Affairs director; Bambi Lane Overson, wife of the award recipient; Sgt. Joel Overson, U.S. Southern Command Senior Enlisted Member of the Year for 2000; Maj. Gen. James Soligan, J-5 director; and Lettie Bien, Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce former chairman, pose at the ceremony.

Officials highlight computer security, awareness

By Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts,
USAF

Command Run Editor

MIAMI – The U.S. Southern Command observed its 4th Annual Computer Security Day April 4, an event designed to educate personnel about the importance of safeguarding the command's computer networks from threats such as cyber attacks.

According to Air Force Tech. Sgt. Richard O'Brien, information security training NCO and the event organizer, the purpose of computer security day was to highlight the importance of computer security in the workplace because the



Photo by Army Spc. Lucy J. Pabon

Brig. Gen. Jerry McAbee (Center), U.S. Southern Command chief of staff, and Col. Benjamin Fletcher (Right), J-6 Command, Control, Communications, and Computer Systems Directorate director, meet with a vendor.

threats to the command's computer systems are very real.

"As computer users, we are the first line of defense in securing our operational

information," O'Brien said. "This event helps educate the authorized user, often the weakest link in computer security, to integrate better security practices into his or her every day routines."

Sponsored by the J-6 Command, Control, Communications, and Computer Systems Directorate, the event included a number of activities that were designed to inform people about the growing number of threats and how to deal with them.

Personnel in every directorate reviewed com-

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puter security policy, performed virus scans on various media, deleted unneeded files, backed up important information, and attached security classification stickers onto unmarked disks. Event organizers also aired computer security videos and hosted an information assurance technology exposition, which gave vendors an opportunity to display and demonstrate the latest computer technologies related to

network security.

According to O'Brien, the day was very successful. He estimates that more than 350 command personnel visited the vendor fair, and 31 people took time to complete their annual information system security training. In addition, 63 people completed a survey requesting feedback on computer security awareness and the monthly information security newsletter called "The Informer."

The survey results were also encouraging, O'Brien noted. "The majority

of respondents said the day's events and the information provided increased their awareness of their security responsibilities," he said.

Lt. Col. Kelley Crooks, chief of the J-6 Information Assurance Division, said he is extremely pleased with the turnout and with the positive impact the event had on the command's ability to protect its computer resources.

"Tech. Sgt. O'Brien and all of the folks in the Information Assurance Division did a super job in putting this event together." Crooks



Photo by Army Spc. Lucy J. Pabon

A U.S. Southern Command member asks a vendor a question about protecting the computer network against cyber threats. More than 350 command personnel visited the vendor fair, and 31 people completed their annual information system security training.

stressed. "It took a lot of coordination, but if it helped prevent just one network intrusion, then it was worth the effort."



Bronze Star awarded

Gen. Peter Pace (Left), U.S. Southern Command commander in chief, presents the Bronze Star Medal (with "V" device) to Maj. Gen. Alfred A. Valenzuela, U.S. Army South commander, during a ceremony April 2 at the Thurman Building. Valenzuela received the medal for his actions on April 13, 1984, when as a major he led his troops during an automatic fire and grenade attack to protect El Salvadoran election officials. With disregard to his own life, he bravely moved from position to position to gain control of the situation. His act of bravery helped ensure El Salvador's newly elected democracy would survive. (Photo by Army Spc. Lucy J. Pabon)

Construction crews begin New Horizons projects in Paraguay

Combined Task Force Guarani Springs

April 9, 2001

CONCEPCION, PARAGUAY—United States Air Force, Marine and Army combat engineering teams together with the Argentine and Paraguayan militaries began construction this week in Concepcion at three different sites.

A medical clinic in Tadeo, a school in Las Palmas and an artesian

well in Estigarribia are the first three projects to be constructed by the Combined Task Force Guarani Springs. Made up of almost 300 personnel, the group of engineer, medical and support personnel are in Paraguay for approximately 100 days to hone their engineering and support skills while building new construction for the Department (county) of Concepcion, Paraguay.

“Now that the initial prep work is finished, it



Task Force Guarani construction crews lay the foundation at one of three New Horizons sites in Concepcion County, Paraguay. Engineer, medical and support personnel are there for about 100 days honing their skills.

feels great to start doing what we do best – engineering and construction. The medical clinic and Las Palmas site should take us between two and a half and

three weeks to complete and the water well maybe just a little bit longer,” said

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Capt. Ken Herndon, operations officer for CTF Guarani Springs.

The new Tadeo medical clinic will be approximately 13 meters by 16 meters, mostly made of concrete block with a metal roof. It will have three rooms, an office and three bathrooms. The new Las Palmas school will be approximately 25 meters by 10 meters, with a front porch and also mostly made of concrete block.

The school will

also have a bathroom equipped with four sinks and four toilets.

The new Estigarribia water well is scheduled to be completed and running in approximately seven days and will provide clean, filtered water to the surrounding communities.

The combined U.S. Task Force is working with seven Paraguayan engineers at the Tadeo medical clinic, five Paraguayan engineers at the Las Palmas school and will soon work with seven Argentine water well drillers at



Several construction crew members smooth out the edge of a concrete foundation at a New Horizons site in Concepcion County, Paraguay.

the proposed well sites. A big part of the New Horizons 2001 training mission in Paraguay is the cooperation between the three countries and learning to

operate together in a joint environment.

"Some of our Latin American friends speak a little English and our guys are beginning to learn some Spanish.

Working together on a daily basis, we not only learn how to communicate but we learn a little more each day about each other's cultures," said Herndon.



Colonel retires

Maj. Gen. Gary Speer (Right), U.S. Southern Command deputy commander in chief, presents Army Col. Gary DeKay, J-3 Operations Directorate, the Defense Superior Service Medal April 12 during a retirement ceremony at the Commander in Chief's Briefing Room. DeKay gave more than 35 years of distinguished service to his nation. His daughter Kimberly and granddaughter Madison attended the ceremony. (Photo by Army Spc. Lucy J. Pabon)

Speaker focuses on women's vision, courage

By **Lisa D. Luse'**
Army Signal Activity

MIAMI – U.S. Southern Command personnel honored and recognized the achievements of women who throughout history have provided a beacon of inspiration during the command's Women's History Month Celebration March 29 at the Thurman Building.

In paying tribute to these women, Lisa Samson, J-8 Programs and Resources Directorate, narrated a slide presentation that highlighted the wide range of women whose lives and work exemplify both courage and vision. Of



Photo/JO1 Gabe Puello

Cathy Speer gives the key-note address March 29.

those women recognized, some more famous than others, Samson briefly described their accomplishments.

Following the tribute, Michael Rhodes, special assistant to the commander in chief for community and family affairs, introduced the guest speaker, Cathy Speer.

Speer, the wife of the deputy commander in chief, addressed the audience with an empowering, motivational and inspiring presentation. She focused on the vision and courage it takes to be a person of influence, not only influencing others, but also influencing oneself.

"We often limit ourselves in what we do because of the way we think," said Speer. "Often we make decisions based on what has

happened to us before. We become conditioned by past experiences. A lot of times we already draw a conclusion of what we expect to see or hear or think. We already know what is going to happen," she added.

Speer continued with an example from the story "The Wizard of Oz." It was about the four individuals who needed something from the great wizard that would make them feel complete. Each of them thought they needed or wanted something they had all along. It was already part of their makeup.

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However, they were looking outside of themselves to get what they wanted. When the wizard gave them the truth, then they believed they had it. They knew they could act that way.

"When we hold a strong image of a person in our minds, we will treat the person according to that image," said Speer. "You wait and see, the person will also start behaving that way too. We can set people up for success



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Gabe Puello
Michael Rhodes, U.S. Southern Command Quality of Life Affairs director, presents Cathy Speer a token of appreciation for speaking at the command's Women's History Month celebration.

or for failure. We are that powerful. How we treat people determines what we get in return," she added.

Speer continued and said that it's good for everyone to treat other people the same way they

would want to be treated. She said she believes everyone has the ability to touch and influence others and help them grow to be their own person.

"We can transform people into becoming high performers. We must have genuine faith in them as individuals; take risks for them; show them we think they are superstars. By believing in others, we can raise their pride and self-esteem," said Speer.

Air Force Maj. Aundra Moore, J-1 Manpower, Personnel and Administra-

tion Directorate, said the positive impact Speer's presentation made on the audience inspired him. "She took something important to her and applied it in a way to empower others," said Moore. "It was the perfect touch of encouraging medicine that everyone could use, both men and women," Moore added.

After the presentation, refreshments were served in the reception room. Many of the attendees had a chance to share their thoughts and comments with Speer.

Command witnesses rise and fall of tent sale

Officials happy with outcome despite loss of tent to gale winds

By Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Gabe Puello

Command Run Assistant Editor

Miami -- According to Newton's laws of gravity, "what goes up, must come down." Southern Command headquarters held its first commissary tent sale March 29 through April 1, but fell prey to this law as strong winds buffeted and ripped its rooftop causing it to collapse March 29 during the late evening hours.



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Gabe Puello
A "Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS)" volunteer helps clean up after winds destroyed the tent.

The parking lot security cameras captured the incident on tape as strong wind gusts ripped the tent's rooftop at exactly 11:23 p.m., and rain poured

onto the pallets of grocery items below.

"The damage to our products from the rain was minimal, however it could have been much worse were it not for the actions of the director of logistics. His crew was in at midnight to load food into the warehouses. They were phenomenal. They saved the day," said Chet Boutelle, Defense Commissary Agency Southern Area vice president.

The logistics office responded to the scene immediately after the accident occurred, providing ware-

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house space, forklifts, and manpower to store food items. "We always have a contingency plan in place for just this type of an occurrence. It was just a matter of executing and implementing that plan in a timely manner with the least amount of items spoiled," said Hector Torres, director of logistics.

Despite the damage, a replacement tent was ordered from a local company and in place, ready to



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Gabe Puello

A pile of rain-soaked toilet paper remains on a table in the aftermath of a rainstorm that blew down the Commissary tent in the command's parking lot March 30. Quick action by the logistics office saved the day.

continue sales at 10:30 a.m., the morning after the collapse. Sales for the duration of the event totaled a little over \$162,500

well short of the projected mark of \$500,000 range, according to Boutelle.

This doesn't mean we had a bad tent sale, said Donald Pruitt, store director, Patrick Air Force Base. A lot of the data for the projected sales were from previous tent sales, and SOUTHCOM isn't like any other commands we have provided this service before. From my standpoint the sale went great even though it didn't meet our expectations, we learned a lot of valuable lessons, added Pruitt.

Pruitt's lessons learned involved the possibility of breaking open cases of goods to better satisfy the small storage spaces of the patrons here in Miami. Another unanticipated lesson was the realization that given the type of duty station and location, not many of the families have pets. The amount of pet food brought would be substituted for other more sought out items, and according to Pruitt there is a strong desire from

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the Defense Commissary Agency to continue these tent sales in the future.

Torres echoed those feelings, stating the SOUTHCOM community and it's leadership shared a desire to hopefully conduct these tent sales on a quarterly basis.

"We need to plan a little bit more on the advertisement campaign. The word just didn't get out to a lot of the retirees and veterans living in the community. The weather may have been a factor, but given what we learned from this experience, I believe we could double our sales

the next time around," said Pruitt.

Late breaking news

As a result of the success of this Defense Commissary Agency tent sale at the U.S. Southern Command headquarters, another similar event is being scheduled for late June or early July. Anyone wishing particular items available for sale at this event can call Bruce Evenson at **(305) 437-2634** or contact him via E-mail at **e v e n s o b @ h q . southcom.mil**.

(Right) Chet Boutelle, Defense Commissary Agency Southern Area vice president, displays wind-torn tent strap March 30.



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Gabe Puello

Colonel retires

Maj. Gen. Paul Lima (Left), U.S. Southern Command deputy commander in chief for Mobilization and Reserve Affairs, presents the Legion of Merit April 20 to Army Col. George M. Dudley, Reserve Affairs director, during a retirement ceremony at the Main Conference Room. Dudley served the nation proudly for more than 30 years. The colonel's wife Robin attended the ceremony. (Photo by Army Spc. Lucy J. Pabon)





Photo by Army Spc. Lucy J. Pabon

New Air Force colonel

Air Force Maj. Gen. James Soligan (Right), J-5 Strategy, Policy, and Plans Directorate director, promotes Lt. Col. Elden Kocourek, J-5, to the rank of colonel April 20 at the Main Conference Room. The colonel's wife Candace assists the general with the promotion. Kocourek's son Matt, 17, and daughter Jenna, 15, also attended the promotion ceremony.



Photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Gabe Puello

New Marine colonel

Gen. Peter Pace (Left), U.S. Southern Command commander in chief, promotes Lt. Col. Daniel L. McManus, special assistant to the CINC, to the rank of colonel April 20 during a ceremony in the general's office. The colonel's wife Sofia assists the general with the promotion.

News briefs

Green to Gold

The University of Cincinnati Army ROTC Battalion has opportunities available to soldiers through the Green to Gold Program.

The school is offering nearly unlimited numbers of four, three, and two-year Green to Gold scholarships to qualified active-duty soldiers with at least 24 months of active service. The scholarships cover full tuition and fees at the university, \$600 each

year to pay for books, a \$250 monthly stipend, and a \$750 signing bonus. The school also has a limited number of room and board scholarships available for incoming cadets. In addition, they are offering quarterly \$1,500 interest-free deferred loans and free licensed tutoring to those cadets that need a little extra help -- financially or academically. Upon graduation and completion of ROTC requirements cadets receive a commission

as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. For more information about the program, call Army Capt. Joe Lisella at (513) 556-3666 or 3660 or contact him via E-mail at joe.lisella@uc.edu. Interested people can also get information on the Internet at <http://ucaswww.mcmuc.edu/armyrotc/>.

All that Jazz

The Hearing Research Institute, a Dade Schools partner, presents "All

That Jazz 2001," a fun-filled night of music and dance performed by deaf kids to benefit deaf kids, 7 p.m. May 3 at Coral Gables High School Auditorium located at 450 Bird Road, Coral Gables, Fla. Call Reserve Col. (Dr.) Bob Pickard for tickets or for more information at (305) 661-9100.

Free job fair

The U.S. Southern Command and U.S. Coast Guard Job Fair is 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 24 at the

Metro Dade Fire Fighters Memorial located at 8000 NW 21st Street in Miami.

People should come with their resumes ready to speak with prospective employers and to fill out their application forms.

Among the employers scheduled to be present are the U.S. Secret Service, Federal Express, FBI, BellSouth, Miami Dade Police Department, TEK Sys-

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tems, Sprint, U.S. Postal Service, Agency for Workforce Innovation, Orion International Consulting Group, Bradley-Morris Military Placement, RTM Star Center, First Investor, Wackenhut Security, Air Jamaica Airlines, City of Miami Police, U.S. Customs, On-Site Staffing, Argenbright Security, Sytex Inc., Lucent Technology, A-Job-For-You, and Men's Warehouse.

Call **Michela de Barrow**, Family Support Center, at **(305) 437-2665** or **2726** to register for this free event.

Fleet Week 2001

Fleet Week 2001, part of Fort Lauderdale's Air & Sea Show 2001, goes full steam ahead April 30 through May 7 to bring 12 U.S. Navy ships, a Coast Guard cutter and 4,000 sailors, Marines and Coast Guard personnel to Broward County.

Fleet Week is designed to thank the nation's seagoing personnel for their dedicated service to the country and is hosted each year at Port Everglades by Broward Navy Days Inc., a nonprofit organization.

The following ships will be open for free tours on May 1 and May 2 from 1 to 3 p.m.

USS Bataan (LHD 5)
USS Shreveport (LPD 12)
USS Whidbey Island (LSD 4)
USS Vella Gulf (CG 72)
USS Valiant (WMEC 62)
USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55).

The following ships will be open for free tours on May 4 from 1 to 3 p.m., May 5 from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m., and May 6 from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m.

USS Elrod (FFG 55)
USS Oak Hill (LSD 51)
USS Ross (DDG 71)
USS Peterson (DD 969)
USS Hayler (DD 997)
USS Ramage (DDG 61)

Visitors will be subject to possible search, and the minimum age is 8. They should also be healthy and fit, wear slacks or shorts and flat shoes. No coolers

or bags are allowed. Photography is ok, but may be limited to certain areas aboard ships.

For more information, call the **Air & Sea Show Hotline at (954) 527-5600, Ext. 88**, or surf the Internet at **www.airseashow.com**.

Free concert

World-renowned saxophonist/singer/composer Warren Hill is performing 7 p.m. May 5 on the beach at A1A and Sunrise Boulevard in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. The concert, sponsored by Captain Morgan's, is

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free. Jazz night also includes a dazzling pyrotechnic night jump by the U.S. Navy Leap Frogs and U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute teams. A fireworks extravaganza lights up the sky immediately following the jump.

BX Mart shuttle

The U.S. Southern Command runs a shuttle from the Thurman Building north entrance to the Homestead Air Reserve Station BX Mart every Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. and returns when all patrons are done shopping or conducting business, which is

no later than 2:30 p.m. The shuttle is for all military and civil service personnel. Family members can also utilize the shuttle to Homestead.

Volunteer program

The U.S. Southern Command is preparing to honor its volunteers at the annual recognition ceremony, which will be held in the near future. Anyone who volunteered in the community in 2000 should contact Jenny Priestly, the volunteer coordinator at the Family Support Center, at (305) 437-2665 to let her know where you volun-

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Honor Roll

New master sergeants

Congratulations to the following U.S. Southern Command Army sergeants first class on their recent selection for promotion to the rank of master sergeant:

- Michael Byrd, J-1
- Gerardo Flores, SOCSO
- Samuel Morales, SOCSO

Enlisted members of quarter

Congratulations to the following U.S. Southern Command enlisted members who were selected as the senior and junior category winners of the enlisted member of the quarter board for the first quarter of 2001:

Senior category

- Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Daniel Mincica, J-4

Junior category

- Army Spc. Patrick Riggs, J-2

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teered and how many hours of time were spent helping the community.

Rental vehicles

A recent change to the Joint Federal Travel Regulation mandates that uniformed members and civilian employees use government/contract commercial travel offices to obtain a rental car for official business.

Travelers disregarding rental car arrangements made by a CTO may be required to provide justification for additional rental car costs before reimbursement will be allowed.

(Taken from DFAS Orlando Communicator, Vol. 3, April 2001)

Travel vouchers

Supervisors are required by regulation to review travel vouchers before they are submitted to DFAS to ensure the claim is complete and proper, and complies with the order.

The reviewer must ensure:

- an original claim with original signature and date is present,
- administrative data on the voucher agrees with the orders,
- original receipts for lodging and rental car are attached (original lodging receipts are required re-

gardless of amount.),
■ lost receipt statement, if applicable, is attached and includes the traveler's signature,

■ advance and partial payments are indicated in the appropriate block,

■ statements of non-availability or confirmation numbers for meals, lodging, or transportation are present,

■ the claim is reasonable and consistent with the mission, and claims for reimbursement are authorized on the orders,

■ the authorized and used rental car was appropriate to the mission and the number of travelers, and its cost was the lowest,

■ all single items of expense of \$75 or more are

supported by the receipt,
■ and when foreign currency was used while traveling on official business, the traveler includes the expense in both foreign and U.S. dollars, showing the exchange rate and commission charges for the foreign currency at the time of exchange.

The reviewer must place the notation "Reviewed (Date)" and sign his or her printed name in the upper right corner of DD Form 1351-2. This also applies to old versions of the form. If using the form dated March 2000, sign in block 20c and date in block 20d.

(Taken from DFAS Orlando Communicator, Vol. 3, April 2001)

MARCHERS RISE UP TO CHALLENGING DESERT COURSE

By Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts
Command Run Editor

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, N.M. – When Seaman Apprentice Michael Klem pulled off his boots and peeled his socks off at the 18-mile point, a medic could only shake her head and begin poking and draining his agonizing blisters. Several minutes later the young sailor from the J-3 Operations Directorate donned a new pair of socks, put his boots on and departed the first-aid station. He limped back on the trail with his 35-pound rucksack; he was

poised and ready to continue the 26.2-mile course, although he could have easily quit the 13th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March at this point. But he refused to let his U.S. Southern Command teammates down, and he also knew his momentary discomfort couldn't compare to the American and Philippine servicemen who survived a 65-



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mile march to prison camps after surrendering to Japanese forces in 1942 during World War II.

More than 3,200 military and civilian marchers, including two SOUTHCOM teams, also experienced annoying blisters, aching muscles, dehydration, exhaustion and many other inconveniences during the



event April 1, which was organized by White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico National Guard and New Mexico State University Army ROTC Bataan Battalion.

The participants, representing 45 states, Canada, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Holland, Korea and Guam, walked and ran along dusty desert

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Photos by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

(Above) Army Lt. Col. Jeffrey McClain, a member of the command's heavy team, marches in the 13th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March April 1 at White Sands Missile Range, N.M. (Left) Army Maj. John Snyder, from the light team, gets a cold drink of water.

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trails and washes through elevations ranging from 4,100 and 5,300 feet to commemorate the 59th anniversary of the surrender of American servicemen to the Japanese in the Philippines.

The soldiers, airmen and sailors from SOUTHCOM were challenged by the grueling course. But with a lot of persistence the command's teams reached the finish line with a personal sense of accomplishment, heightened unit pride, and an appreciation for what the Batling Bastards of Bataan

experienced during their forced march in a malaria infested region, with little food and no medical supplies.

SOUTHCOM's five-man light team finished the course in 6:00:00 and captured 7th place out of 64 teams, while the command's five-man heavy team (where competitors carry a 35-pound rucksack) finished the course in 9:32:38, finishing in 18th place out of 61 teams.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Henry Montoya, overall coordinator, captained the light team, which consisted of Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian Chris, Army Sgt. 1st Class Ronald Wallace, Army Lt. Col.

Craig Tate and Army Sgt. John Deist. Army Staff Sgt. Stephen Jackson captained the heavy team, which consisted of Klem, Army Maj. John Snyder, Army Lt. Col. Jeffrey McClain and Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert Battle.

Tate said after the race that he was proud that both of the command's teams finished because there were a lot of teams that were disqualified for not finishing with all five teammates. In the actual death march American servicemen helped each other to stay alive, and this spirit still

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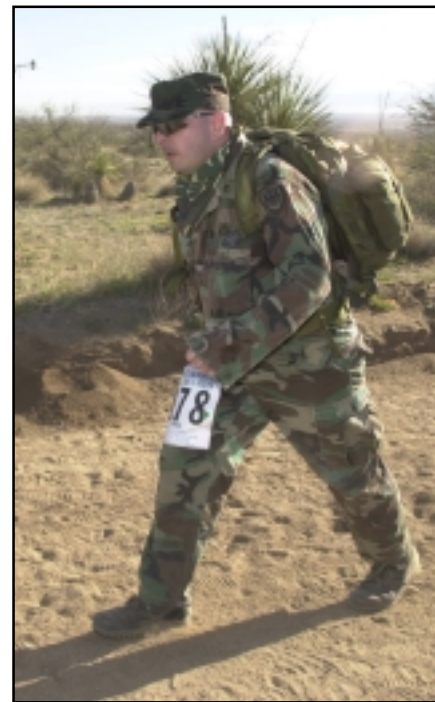


Photo by TSgt. Lee Roberts

Army Staff Sgt. Stephen Jackson, captain of the command's heavy team, approaches the eight-mile mark of the 26.2-mile Bataan Memorial Death March course April 1.

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applies in the Bataan Memorial Death March where every team must finish together.

Tate also said both teams stuck together, even though they faced a tough physical challenge due to the change in altitude. In Miami the team trained at 20 to 30 feet above sea level, but in New Mexico the altitude reached nearly 6,000 feet.

"I just kept pushing," added Wallace. "I thought to myself if this were the actual march and I began to dehydrate, my muscles became sore, or my feet began to blister, I could be the next



Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts
Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert Battle, from the command's heavy team, marches by a patch of cactus near the Hal Cox Ranch, a historical landmark near the 18-mile point.

one to feel the point of a bayonet. That thought kept me going for a while,

and then I thought about my teammates – where we had to depend on each

other for success."

The command's contingent was also able to meet many of the 30 survivors of Bataan and Corregidor who were present at the event. The day before the march, the participants were given a historical briefing on the Bataan Death March at the White Sands Missile Range Theater, and then given the opportunity to speak with them one-on-one at the education center. The veterans were also available along sections of the course during the competition to motivate the teams and share their experiences.

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Tate said many of them just talked, joked, and recounted many of their experiences as if it was just yesterday. "What sticks out in my mind," the lieutenant colonel said, "was that they were simply overwhelmed by the Japanese with no support from Uncle Sam. They didn't want to surrender. In fact many soldiers were in tears when they were ordered to destroy their coastal artillery pieces in place so they wouldn't fall into Japanese hands. After they surrendered, the Japanese brutally



Photos by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

(Left) Both command teams meet at Fort Bliss, Texas, March 30 to talk strategy before the event. (Right) Army Maj. John Snyder weighs his rucksack at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., during registration March 31.

bayoneted or clubbed them to death if they fell to the ground during the Bataan Death March... I think that is unforgivable," he stressed. "It's all just surreal!"

Before the race, Snyder met one Bataan survivor who joked about much of the hardship he

had endured in the Japanese prisons. "I commented and asked him if he used humor as a survival tool. He said humor kept him alive," the major said.

After having this conversation Snyder said he decided to use humor to help him on the trail.

During the march he ate a pasty nutritional supplement, and he said he would joke about it to other people on the trail during the march. "There were more nutrients and calories in my Powergel tube I held in my fist than the (Bataan) guys got in a week. In good conscience I could not complain," he said.

Jackson said meeting the Bataan survivors was a living-history lesson that he found to be quite interesting. While he had personal goals during the march, he found that he wanted to honor the men of Bataan and to recog-

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nize the sacrifice and suffering of the thousands of U.S. and Filipino service members who fought so gallantly in the Philippines during World War II.

"I kept thinking that this is nothing compared to what the prisoners had to do. They were force marched 65 miles without food, water and rest," Jackson explained. "This (event) was only 26.2 miles and I had food, water and rest."

The SOUTHCOM teams completed the 26.2-mile memorial march route, which starts on the White Sands main post, crosses hilly desert terrain, circles a small mountain and returns to the main post, and then attended the closing ceremonies.

Each team member had to



Army Lt. Col. Craig Tate (Right) meets Bataan Death March survivor David Johns from Las Cruces, N.M., at the White Sands Missile Range Education Center March 31. The team received a historical presentation about the march and met one-on-one with many of the 30 veterans present at the event.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Brian Chris (Right) meets Tommie Foy, also a survivor of the Bataan Death March. Foy and Chris are both residents of Indiana and fans of Notre Dame. Foy was a member of the 200th Cavalry when he was captured by the Japanese.

(Photos by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts)

qualify to represent the command at the Bataan Memorial Death March during tryouts held in the Florida Everglades several weeks leading up to the event.



(Editor's note: For more on the Bataan Memorial Death March, go to the Internet at www.wsmr.army.mil/paopage/pages/bmdm/index.htm)

Advisers step back in history at Shiloh Battlefield

By Army Chief Warrant Officer Richard Wilde

J-3 Operations Directorate

On April 6, 1862, in the area of a church named Shiloh in western Tennessee, the roar of muskets and the thunder of cannons suddenly interrupted the morning quiet. Exactly 141 years later, U.S. Southern Command Chief of Staff Brig. Gen. Jerry McAbee led a group of five foreign participating nation advisors, and other personnel, on a tour of the battlefield.

This was the third such staff ride organized



Photo by Army Chief Warrant Officer Richard Wilde
Brig. Gen. Jerry McAbee (Center), U.S. Southern Command chief of staff, poses with four foreign officers during a recent educational visit to Shiloh National Military Park in Tennessee.

by McAbee, intended to provide the participants with additional insights

into the human dimensions of warfare, a greater understanding of the

operational art and a better appreciation of the military's role in American society. The general encouraged open discussions at every stop, and often asked the participants to consider what may have transpired had the opposing commanders made alternative decisions.

Just some 20 miles south of Shiloh, the mid-nineteenth century town of Corinth, Miss., lay astride railroads that served the Confederacy on north-south and east-west axes. The Union strategy was to conduct raids to cut the railroads

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and destroy bridges; about 40,000 Federal troops ventured into Confederate territory, with more en route.

Some Federal soldiers were so new to the Army that they had never fired their guns and were therefore undergoing basic training in the field. Meanwhile, at Corinth, the Confederate Army commander, Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston, was planning to advance his 44,000 troops to



Photo by Army Chief Warrant Officer Richard Wilde
Ecuadorian Defense Attaché Col. Miguel Maldonado (Third from right) and Participating Nation Advisor Navy Capt. Antonio Ruales (Far right) pose with Civil War living historians who performed for the many visitors at the park.

attack the Federals.

In spite of the fact that the Union troops were deep in enemy territory and

close to a strategic point, they had lulled themselves into an unwarranted sense of

security as they considered the Confederates had lost their fighting resolve after recent defeats just north of Shiloh. Union commanders were also new to warfare and failed to recognize warning signs that should have alerted them to an imminent attack. Indicators over a period of three days included sightings of Confederate infantry and cavalry, a scouting party and its rescue party that never returned as well as many animals heading north.

Johnston's goal

was to separate the Federals from their resupply base at Pittsburgh Landing on the Tennessee River. He tasked his second-in-command, Gen. Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard, with writing the operations order. Beauregard consulted a book on napoleonic battles and, unfortunately for the Confederates, selected an inappropriate battle strategy. As Johnston's intent was to force the

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Union left flank away from the river, a logical decision would have been to position a preponderance of units on the Confederate right. Instead, the Confederate regiments were placed in echelons, one behind the other. This resulted in the intermingling of units as the attack progressed, with resultant lack of command and control.

Both sides used its limited cavalry troops as dismounted infantry, rather than for reconnaissance of enemy positions, screening of their own forces' actions or pursuit of retreating enemy infantry. The cavalry was generally armed with shotguns and pistols, hardly appropriate for combat at more than a short distance.

Leadership styles varied be-



Photo/Chief Warrant Officer Richard Wilde
The five foreign officers observe women living historians spinning wool and embroidering lace panels.

tween opposing commanders as a Union Division commander, Maj. Gen. William Sherman, dropped back into his Corps' area to maintain effective command and control and to develop a good linear defense against a strong Confederate advance. Johnston, on the other hand, led from the front, more as a

brigade commander. His persistence to be near the action resulted in his death. Historians still ask "what if" questions about his death. Whereas Beauregard, who took command, persisted with frontal attacks, Johnston might have tried to reposition his forces to try to outflank the Federal left. There is a military axiom that when officers do not know what to do, they do what they know. As Johnston had never led that number of troops before, he reverted to the role with which he was comfortable.

In contrast, the Union Army commander, Gen. Ulysses Grant, arrived at the battlefield soon after the engagement started and, after visiting the front with his field commanders, he entrusted them to

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conduct the fight while he worried about the next potential phase. He returned to the rear and coordinated the offloading of supplies from steamboats, positioned siege guns and formed a final protective line.

To help instruct the USSOUTHCOM participants, three experts were present to explain the different phases of the battle. They were Dr. William Glenn Robertson, command historian, U.S. Army Combined Arms Center; Lt. Col. Robert J. Dalessandro, Professor, U.S. Army Command and



Photo by Army Chief Warrant Officer Richard Wilde

Colombian Participating Nation Advisor Col. Carlos Rueda poses by a cannon and monument at Corinth, Miss.

General Staff College; and Michael Miller, senior archivist, U.S. Marine

Corps University. Their pertinent comments on tactical, operational and strategic considerations allowed all participants to gain enhanced insights into the military art.

Robertson led the group over terrain traveled by Confederate troops pursuing retreating Union soldiers and stopped at a 90-foot high cliff that overlooked a wide creek bottom, and then proceeded up another 90-foot cliff. He remarked how the Confederates were repulsed in their pursuit, but questioned their tenacity. By mere observation of a map, without considering the heights of the cliffs, and given the fact that

the pursuit was made after fighting all day long and that Union gunboats were firing upon the pursuers, an armchair historians might doubt the tenacity of the attackers, he noted.

Robertson suggested a basic principle of war is that speed is almost always important. He provided the example of a Union division commander at Shiloh who had been ordered to move expeditiously to the battle. The commander delayed moving his troops until they finished their lunch, took a route other than the most direct and

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Photo by Army Chief Warrant Officer Richard Wilde

The five foreign officers pose with Confederate cavalrymen near a memorial that commemorates Alabama Confederate generals who served at Shiloh.

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then reversed his column of troops in a time-consuming manner. A march

that should have taken two hours from the time of receiving the order to displace was not completed until seven hours later, thereby denying the

Army commander additional troops needed at the battle.

Another cited example where lack of celerity had detrimental effect was the plundering of Union camps by Confederate attackers. The Confederates had not eaten well for several weeks and stopped to enjoy the food left behind by the retreating Federal soldiers. This delay gave precious time for the Union commanders to rally their troops into defensive positions. Ultimately, the arrival of 17,000 additional Federals during the night after the first day's fighting and a strong offensive on the second day re-

sulted in a Confederate withdrawal.

The Battle of Shiloh resulted in more than 13,000 Union and almost 11,000 Confederate casualties and was the bloodiest armed encounter in the western theater. It was also the last major Confederate offensive in the region.

During the recent visit to Shiloh National Military Park, the USSOUTHCOM group enjoyed the opportunity to view a "living history" enactment by men, women and children dressed in period costumes. Civil War enthusi-

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asts from the area provided demonstrations of daily life as well as the era's infantry, cavalry and artillery tactics.

The command's group of foreign officers also visited the sites of subsequent armed encounters later the same year across the Mississippi border in Iuka and Corinth. In both clashes, the opposing armies tried to gain control of the region.

Foreign Advisers assigned to USSOUTHCOM

who accompanied McAbee were Col. Hernan Garay from Argentina, Col. Carlos Rueda from Colombia, Navy Capt. Antonio Ruales from Ecuador and Col. Julio Tabarez from Uruguay. Col. Miguel Maldonado, the Ecuadorean defense attaché in Miami, also accompanied the group.

Other command members present were Army Col. Ronald Williams, Public Affairs director; Navy Capt. Gary Edwards, U.S. Navy South liaison officer; Navy Lt.



A rebel cannon battery fires off a volley at Shiloh Battlefield April 6. The participating nation advisors were able to see reenactments of the battle during their visit.

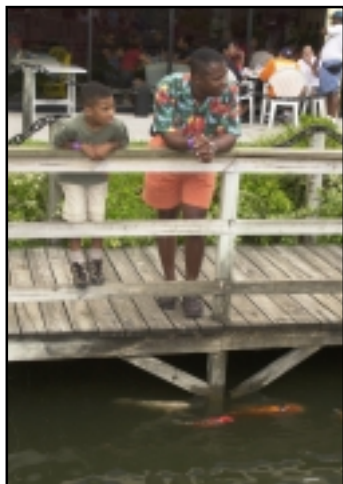
(Photo by Army Chief Warrant Officer Richard Wilde)

Kyle Leese, executive officer to McAbee; Navy Lt. Carlos Plazas of the J-2 Intelligence Directorate; Chief Warrant Officer Richard Wilde of the J-5 Strategy, Plans

and Policy Directorate; Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Laye, and Air Force Master Sgt. Garrett Edmond, assistant executive officer to McAbee. The week prior to the trip,

McAbee had the participants meet after duty hours to brief him and the others on different phases of the battle, thereby ensuring all had an appreciation of the events.

Command finds time to relax at Boomer's Park



Robert Worrell, a contractor assigned to Army Signal Activity, and his son Bobby look at goldfish in the park's pond.

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Photos by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts
(Above) A clown makes balloon animal figures Saturday for the children during the command's picnic at Boomer's Park in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. (Right) Army Spc. Lana Luciano, Reserve Affairs administration specialist, enjoys a game of putt putt.





Photos by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts

(Left to right) Army Maj. Alberto Rivera, J-5, Army Capt. Angel Stuart, J-3, and Army Maj. Angela Larsen, J-5, feel the excitement of dropping more than 100 feet, dangling by a cable, on the “Sky Coaster” during the command’s picnic Saturday.



(Left) Members of the U.S. Southern Command enjoy pizza, hotdogs, chips, ice cream and drinks at the spring picnic.



Army Lt. Col. Woodard (Left), J-8 Programs and Resources Directorate, and son Jonathan, 15, hold on tight during a thrill ride at Boomer’s Park in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Gary C. Meeker



Service:

Civilian GS-12/U.S. Air Force Reserve lieutenant colonel

Organization:

J-3 Operations Directorate

Duty title:

Operations officer watch captain

Time in service:

22 years Air Force/ 3 years civil service

Hometown: Newburgh, N.Y., but Miami has been home for more than 20 years

Hobbies: Reading, writing, running, education, and growing Bonsi trees

Favorite duty station: Wherever I am in the Air Force at the time. That would make it SOUTHCOM now.

Career Highlights: Got to fly F-4 Phantom and Reserve C-130 Hercules. Participated in several space shuttle launches. Had a great flying career.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Margaret K. Schultz



Service: U.S. Navy

Organization:

J-2 Intelligence Directorate

Duty title:

Helpdesk technician

Time in service:

Two years, seven months

Hometown:

Orlando, Fla.

Hobbies: Kickboxing,

sports, computers, beach, movies and reading

Favorite duty station: U.S. Southern Command (only duty station thus far)

Career Highlights: Promoted to E-4 June 14, 2000; working on civilian education



Friendship boxes

Army Staff Sgt. Helen Whitlow (Far right), U.S. Southern Command Health Clinic, Sgt. Shane Barnett (Far left), Dental Clinic, and Jenny Priestly (Center), Family Support Center, in partnership with the American Red Cross, receive "friendship boxes" April 16 from sixth graders at Brownsville Middle School in Miami, a medical magnet school. The boxes, filled with school supplies, are for needy school children in Central and South America. (Photo by Air Force Tech. Sgt. Lee Roberts)